



Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
Career Planning for Students with Disabilities

“Helping individuals with disabilities to choose, find and keep employment”

The **Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS)** is the state agency that assists eligible individuals with disabilities to prepare for and obtain employment. An ORS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor assists students, their families and school in planning the transition from school to employment. A VR Counselor has specialized knowledge of the impact of disability on employment, current employment trends, and community resources.

VR Counselors assist students and their families in making informed choices by:

- Providing career information
- Assisting in choosing an employment goal, services, and training that are necessary to obtain employment
- Assisting in developing an **Individualized Plan for Employment [IPE]**, and
- Providing information about other programs and services to help make a successful transition to adult life

VR Counselors can help eligible individuals choose necessary services, including:

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|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Guidance & Counseling | ■ Work Preparation |
| ■ Information about Careers and Resources | ■ Financial Assistance for Post Secondary Education (based on family financial need and application for federal financial aid) |
| ■ Supported Employment Services | ■ Rehabilitation Technology |
| ■ Vocational Assessment & Community Job Trials | ■ Assistance in finding and keeping a job |
| ■ Skills Training | |
| ■ On-the-Job Training | |

To benefit from ORS Employment Services:

- Apply for ORS services early enough to make a good transition plan (two years before your graduation).
- Share information, preferences, ideas and questions with your ORS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

To learn more about ORS or to apply:

- Contact ORS directly to set up a meeting with the ORS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor who visits your school (see other side). **A parent or guardian will need to attend if the student is under 18 years old.**
- Visit the ORS website at <http://www.ors.ri.gov> for more information about ORS services and Orientations throughout the state.

For more information, contact ORS today!



ORS Counselors Covering Regional School Districts
Call ORS at 401.421.7005 (see extensions below)



East Bay

BARRINGTON:
Kathleen McCabe, Ext. 343

BRISTOL/WARREN:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376

EAST PROVIDENCE:
Tony Bagaglia, Ext. 374

LITTLE COMPTON:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376

MIDDLETOWN:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376

NEWPORT:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376

PORTSMOUTH:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376

TIVERTON:
Mike Montanaro, Ext. 376

Transition Resource Center*
East Bay Educational
Collaborative (EBEC)
401.245.2045
Transition Coordinator,
Carolyn Aspinwall

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PROVIDENCE:
Jennifer Fiske, Ext. 378

PROJECT WORK*
401.456.9230
Coordinator,
Charlean Borders

Transition Resource Center*
Providence School District
401.456.9230
Transition Coordinator,
Nancy Stevenin

Northern RI

BURRILLVILLE:
Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

CENTRAL FALLS:
Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356

CUMBERLAND:
Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

DAVIES CAREER TECH:
Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

JOHNSTON:
Teresa Scaramuzzo-DiMattia,
Ext. 340

LINCOLN:
Dorian Havers, Ext. 346

NORTH PROVIDENCE:
Dorian Havers, Ext. 346

NORTH SMITHFIELD:
Dorian Havers, Ext. 346

PAWTUCKET:
Kathleen Granken, Ext. 356

SMITHFIELD:
Karen Dougherty, Ext. 334

WOONSOCKET:
Dorian Havers, Ext. 346

Transition Resource Center*
Northern RI Collaborative
401.658.5790
Transition Coordinator,
Jane Slade

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Transition Coordinator
Kathleen Grygiel, Ext. 373

Southern RI

BLOCK ISLAND:
Sharon Morra, Ext. 335

CHARIHO:
Sharon Morra, Ext. 335

EAST GREENWICH:
Melanie Sbardella, Ext. 338

EXETER/W GREENWICH:
Melanie Sbardella, Ext. 338

JAMESTOWN:
Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

NARRAGANSETT:
Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

NORTH KINGSTOWN:
Michaela Stannard, Ext. 339

SOUTH KINGSTOWN:
Roberta Whittemore, Ext. 421

WESTERLY:
Sharon Morra, Ext. 335

Transition Resource Center*
Southern RI Collaborative
(SORICO)
401.295.2888
Transition Coordinator,
Alice Woods

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West Bay

CRANSTON:
Valerie Williams, Ext. 352

COVENTRY:
Roberta Whittemore, Ext. 421

FOSTER/GLOCESTER:
Teresa Scaramuzzo-DiMattia,
Ext. 340

SCITUATE:
Teresa Scaramuzzo-DiMattia,
Ext. 340

WARWICK:
Cora Banerjee, Ext. 347

WEST WARWICK:
Roberta Whittemore, Ext. 421

Transition Resource Center*
West Bay Collaborative
401.941.8353
Transition Coordinator,
Theresa Curran

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**Students with Visual
Impairments
Statewide:**

Jane Cannata Ext. 431
Missy Koch Ext. 420
Gerry Shapiro Ext. 416

**Students with
Hearing Loss
Statewide:**

Karen Davis, Supervisor,
Ext. 367
Jessica Tunison Ext. 385
TDD: 401.421.7016

*Ask your counselor about career exploration and career discovery services available through the Transition Resource Centers.

